

Message Text

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13-44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 190845Z JAN 75 CORRECTED FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2242

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0748

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ID

SBUECT: GOI RESPONSE TO MERDEKA ATTACKS

REF: JAKARTA 0651 DTG 160535Z JAN 76,

JAKARTA 0611 DTG 150911Z JAN 76,

JAKARTA 0552 DTG 140911Z JAN 76,

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOI HAS BEGUN RESPONSE TO B.M. DIAH'S
SERIES OF FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES IN MERDEKA ATTACKING
INDONESIAN FOREIGN POLICY. PRESIDENT SUHARTO MADE
INDIRECT REFERENCES JAN 17 TO ATTACKS IN COMMENTING
ON FOREIGN AID, AND KOPKAMTIB HAS STARTED INVESTIGATION
OF MERDEKA ARTICLES. FONMIN ADAM MALIK COMMENTED THAT
DIAH IS GOOD FRIEND BUT HIS ARTICLES ARE LYING TO THE
PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN REMARKS AT INSTLLATION CEREMONY FOR NINE
INDONESIAN AMBASSADORS JAN 17, PRESIDENT SUHARTO
DEFENDED GOI AID POLICIES IN INDIRECT REPLY TO B.M. DIAH'S
ARTICLES ON FRONT PAGE OF MERDEKA EARLIER IN WEEK CRITI-
CIZING GOI FOR LETTING FOREIGN POLICY BE UNDULY
INFLUENCED BY FOREIGN AID. SUHARTO SAID INDONESIA
SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT FOREIGN AID SINCE MANY OF NOW
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD ALSO USED FOREIGN ASSITANCE IN
BUILDING THEIR ECONOMIES. HE EXPLAINED THAT FOREIGN
POLICY IS NOT SEPARATE PART OF NATIONAL POLICY AND
STRATEGY, AND EVERY NATION GEARS ITS FOREIGN POLICY TO
ACHIEVING ASPRIATIONS OF THENATION AND PEOPLE. SUHARTO
STATED THAT GOI DID WHAT IT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE WITH-
OUT FOLLOWING LEAD OF OTHER COUNTRIES EVEN THOUGH THEY
MIGHT BE SUPERPOWERS, AND ADDED THAT INDONESIA MUST
BUILD UP SELF-CONIDENCE IN ORDER NOT TO BE SWAYED BY
PULLS FROM THE LEFT OR FROM THE RIGHT.

2. JAKARTA REGIONAL OFFICE OF KOPKAMTIB (SE URITY AND
ORDER OPERATIONS COMMAND) ANNOUNED JAN 17 IT WAS
STUDYING DIAH ARTICLES AND WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH
KOPKAMTIB HEADQUARTERS, ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT. SPOKESMAN SIAD ISSUES RELATED TO STATE
AFFAIRS SHOULD BE SETTLED IN CLOSED CIRCLES, NOT THROUGH
MASS MEDIA AS IN THIS CASE. IF THIS PRACTICE CONTINUES,
HE SAID, PKI REMNANTS AND OTHER SUBVERSIVES WOULD SURELY
EXPLOIT THE SITUATION.

3. IN INTERVIEW WITH MERDEKA REPORTERS, FONMIN ADAM
MALIK SAID JAN 16 THAT B.M. DIAH WAS HIS GOOD FRIEND FOR
MANY YEARS AND HE HAD NO PERSONAL GRIEVANCE AGAINST HIM,
BUT HIS RECENT ARTICLES WERE TELLING LIES TO THE PEOPLE
AND IT WAS THIS LYING WHICH CONSTITUTED FASCISM, NOT HIS
OWN ATTITUDE AS DIAH HAD CHARGED. MALIK SAID THE PEOPLE
COULD BECOME ANGRY, AND THE RESULT COULD BE SIMILAR TO
CASE OF INDONESIA RAYA (CLOSED BY GOI IN JAN 1974).
MALIK SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHO WAS TARGET OF DIAH ARTICLES,
AND SUGGESTED REPORTER MIGHT AS DIAH HIMSELF, BUT AS
FONMIN HE FELT IT WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO ANSWER THE
CHARGES. IN OTHER INTERVIEWS, MALIK NOTED THAT ARYADUTA
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HOTEL (OWNED BY B.M. DIAH) WAS BUILT WITH HEAVY IN-PUT
OF FOREIGN CAPITAL, AND WHEN ASKED IF DIAH MIGHT WISH TO
BECOME FOREIGN MINISTER, HE REPLIED THAT MORE LIKELY HE
WANTED TO BE PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S REMARK THT FOREIGN POLICY IS
NOT SEPARATE PART OF NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY, AND
MALIK COMMENT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW AT WHOM CRITICISM WAS

AIMED BUT IT WAS HIS JOB TO ANSWER IT, CONVEYED GENERAL
IMPRESSION THAT FURTHER DIAH ATTACKS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED
CRITICISM OF SUHARTO HIMSELF. KOPKAMTIB INVESTIGATION
MAY KEEP DIAH QUIET IN NEAR FUTURE EVEN IF NO ACTION
IS TAKEN AGAINST MERDEKA.
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